



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - March 7, 2003

- ***In the West***, stormy, windy conditions are overspreading areas from the ***Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies***, but warm, unfavorably dry weather prevails elsewhere. Most areas from the ***Rockies westward*** face water-supply concerns in coming months due to the combination of already-low reservoir levels, near-to below-normal snow packs, and poor spring and summer runoff prospects.
- ***On the Plains***, bitterly cold weather remains entrenched across ***northern portions of the region***, maintaining stress on livestock and causing additional concerns about the still-dormant winter wheat crop. Farther south, warm weather is promoting winter wheat growth as far north as ***northern Texas*** and ***southern Oklahoma***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 65 to 80 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold air is again overspreading the ***upper Midwest***, maintaining livestock stress. Elsewhere in the ***Corn Belt***, mild weather is boosting topsoil moisture due to melting snow.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather favors a limited return to fieldwork from the ***Delta westward***, although wet soils remain a problem in some areas. Rain continues in the ***southern Atlantic region***, excluding ***southern Florida***, where very warm, dry weather favors spring fieldwork and blooming citrus.

Outlook: Later today, showers will gradually diminish across the ***Southeast***, while a high-pressure system will provide dry, pleasant weather to the remainder of the ***eastern U.S.*** Farther west, locally heavy snow and strong, gusty winds will prevail along a front draped across the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***. During the weekend, snow will accompany a strong Arctic cold front across the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***, while showers may return to the ***Southeast***. Cold air will spread to the ***Atlantic Coast States*** by Monday, while warm, dry weather will develop across much of the ***western U.S.*** The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 12-16 calls for drier-than-normal weather across most of the U.S., except for above-normal precipitation along the ***Pacific and western Gulf Coasts***. Above-normal temperatures are likely ***west of the Mississippi River and south of the Ohio River***, with cooler-than-normal weather confined to the ***Northeast***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)